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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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58514 A

(54) Title: METHODS FOR IMPROVING SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY OF SCREENING ASSAYS

(57) Abstract: Methods of the invention comprise assays for markers indicative of cancer or precancer. Assays of the invention are performed on samples obtained from a patient by non-invasive or minimally-invasive methods. The invention provides nucleic acid indicia of cancer or precancer with high sensitivities and high specificities for detection.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Innational Application No.

PCT/US 00/07882 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C1201/68 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C120 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used-EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EMBASE C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category * SIDRANSKY DAVID: "Nucleic acid-based 1-8. χ methods for the detection of cancer." 15-17, 20-24, SCIENCE (WASHINGTON D C), 29-33 vol. 278, no. 5340, 7 November 1997 (1997-11-07), pages 1054-1058, XP002170462 ISSN: 0036-8075 9 - 14page 1054 -page 1057; table 1 Υ 9-14 Y WO 95 00669 A (PHARMACIA BIOTECH AB BEST AVAILABLE COPY :BAYLOR COLLEGE MEDICINE (US); CASKEY C THOMA) 5 January 1995 (1995-01-05) page 14, line 1 - line 28; claims 1-18 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are tisted in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but died to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another 'Y' document of particular relevance: the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed '&' document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 2 July 2001 17/07/2001 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer

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